

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NAN, US, YO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH YUGOSLAV CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ON
COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED OUTCOME AND PUERTO RICAN
ISSUE AT COMMITTEE OF 24

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS LUNCHEd WITH YUGOSLAV CHARGE
PETKOVIC AUGUST 25. PETKOVIC WAS SEEKING DEPARTMENT'S
ASSESSMENT OF COLOMBO OUTCOME. LEWIS REPLIED IN PESSIMIS-
TIC TONES, CONCENTRATING ON OBVIOUS EXAMPLES OF CONTRADIC-
TION BETWEEN "NON-ALIGNMENT" AND COMPLETELY ONE-SIDED NATURE
OF DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT COLOMBO ON KOREA AND SOME OTHER
TOPICS. HOWEVER, LEWIS TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GRATI-
FICATION AT CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS APPARENTLY MADE BY AMBAS-
SADOR JOB ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF COLOMBO OUTCOME.

2. ON PUERTO RICO, LEWIS REHEARSED US VIEW OF COLOMBO OUT-
COME IN DETAIL AND RESTATED UNACCEPTABILITY OF ANY UN
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ACTION ON THIS ISSUE IN LIGHT OF HISTORY. HE OUTLINED

SITUATION IN COMMITTEE OF 24, AND URGED THAT YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE CUBAN INITIATIVE NEXT WEEK. IF AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WERE NOT POSSIBLE, DESPITE OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR IT,

HE URGED THAT YUGOSLAVIA MAINTAIN AT LEAST ITS POSITION OF ABSTENTION AS IT HAD LAST YEAR ON A SIMILAR VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24. PETKOVIC SHOWED COMPLETE SYMPATHY FOR US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO, CONFIDING THAT THE EX-YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK HAD VISITED PUERTO RICO LAST YEAR AND HAD CAREFULLY BRIEFED THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE VALIDITY OF THE US POSITION. HE SAID IT WAS THIS WHICH HAD LED TO YUGOSLAVIA'S ABSTENTION IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN 1975. HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT, AT THE LEAST, ABSTENTION WOULD BE MAINTAINED THIS YEAR, AND HE DID NOT TOTALLY EXCLUDE A POSITIVE VOTE FOR POSTPONEMENT. HE PROMISED TO REPORT FAITHFULLY THE STRENGTH OF US VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. PETKOVIC WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC DECLARATION WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "VERY SERIOUS AND CONCRETE." LEWIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS LESS VITUPERATIVE THAN SOME OF THE OTHER DOCUMENTS BUT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE RESERVE ABOUT THOSE PRECISE AREAS OF CONCRETENESS IN WHICH PETKOVIC TOOK SUCH PLEASURE.

4. IN DISCUSSING OVERALL IMPACT OF COLOMBO OUTCOME, LEWIS STRESSED MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER THAT DESPITE EFFORTS OF MODERATES IN SOME OF THE MEETINGS, OVERALL IMPACT ON US PUBLIC OF PUBLIC DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SUCH AS THOSE ON KOREA, PUERTO RICO, AND THE ME COULD NOT HELP BUT BE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE--SINCE LANGUAGE WAS AIMED CLEARLY AT ALLEGED US PERFIDIES AND EMBODIED NO REFERENCES WHATSOEVER TO THE SOVIET UNION. FOR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO ADOPT LANGUAGE WHICH IN MANY CASES SEEMS SO CLEARLY "UN-NON-ALIGNED" COULD NOT HELP BUT RAISE QUESTIONS IN MANY US MINDS AS TO VALUE OF THE SERIOUS EFFORTS US HAD MADE OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS TO WORK FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND TO PROPOSE MANY CONCRETE APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES INTENDED TO BE AS RESPONSIVE

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AS POSSIBLE TO THE REQUESTS COMING FROM THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP. PETKOVIC ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS COULD WELL BE THE CASE, ALTHOUGH HE ATTEMPTED TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE FACT THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTING FROM COLOMBO HAD BEEN "QUITE OBJECTIVE." KISSINGER

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